

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 60th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

Call to Order: By Chairman Bob Lake, on March 26, 2007 at 9:00 A.M., in Room 152 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Bob Lake, Chairman (R)
Rep. Jill Cohenour, Vice Chairman (D)
Rep. Jon Sonju, Vice Chairman (R)
Rep. Mark Blasdel (R)
Rep. Edward B. Butcher (R)
Rep. Ron Erickson (D)
Rep. Wanda Grinde (D)
Rep. Robin Hamilton (D)
Rep. Edward Hilbert (R)
Rep. Mike Jopek (D)
Rep. Carol Lambert (R)
Rep. Gary MacLaren (R)
Rep. Dave McAlpin (D)
Rep. Bill Nooney (R)
Rep. JP Pomnichowski (D)
Rep. John (Jack) W. Ross (R)
Rep. Chas Vincent (R)

Members Excused: Rep. Norma Bixby (D)

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Jeff Martin, Legislative Branch
Debra Polhemus, Committee Secretary

Audio Committees: These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: SB 539, 3/13/2007; SB 533,
3/12/2007; SB 418, 3/12/2007
Executive Action: SB 533

HEARING ON SB 533

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:01:23 Sen. Mitch Tropila (D), SD 12, opened the hearing on SB 533, Adjust date of TIF valuation -- delaying circumstances.

Proponents' Testimony:

Opponents' Testimony:

Informational Testimony:

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

Closing by Sponsor:

00:02:15 Sen. Mitch Tropila

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 533

00:02:57 **Motion:** Rep. Cohenour moved that **SB 533 BE CONCURRED IN.**

00:03:04 **Substitute Motion/Vote:** Rep. Ross made a substitute motion that **SB 533 BE TABLED. SUBSTITUTE MOTION CARRIED** unanimously by voice vote with Rep. Bixby voting by proxy.

HEARING ON SB 418

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:03:30 Sen. Dan Weinberg (D), SD 2, opened the hearing on SB 418, Revise distribution of lodging facility use taxes.

[EXHIBIT\(tah64a01\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(tah64a02\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(tah64a03\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(tah64a04\)](#)

Proponents' Testimony:

00:08:24 Jan Metzmaker, Director, Whitefish Convention & Visitor
Bureau
00:10:58 Rhonda Fitzgerald, Volunteer Member, Whitefish
Convention & Visitor Bureau
00:13:30 Rep. Scott Boggio, HD 59, Red Lodge
00:14:41 Don Kinney, representing Red Lodge Area Economic
Development, Red Lodge Chamber of Commerce and Red
Lodge Main Street Project

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:18:27 Rep. Lambert
00:19:19 Sen. Weinberg
00:20:15 Rep. Boggio
00:21:04 Rep. Ross
00:22:01 Rep. Erickson
00:22:18 Gene Walborn, Department of Revenue
00:23:47 Rep. MacLaren
00:24:56 Rep. Butcher
00:29:01 Rep. McAlpin
00:31:52 Rep. Jopek
00:32:36 Rhonda Fitzgerald
00:35:36 Rep. Grinde
00:36:26 Rep. Nooney
00:37:01 Rep. Butcher
00:38:09 Rhonda Fitzgerald
00:39:13 Rep. Butcher
00:39:34 Gene Walborn
00:43:10 Rep. Butcher
00:43:24 Rep. Boggio
00:44:25 Rep. Pomnichowski
00:45:01 Chairman Lake
00:45:54 Jeff Martin, Legislative Services Division
00:46:40 Rep. Jopek
00:46:53 Rep. McAlpin
00:47:08 Rep. Erickson
00:47:36 Chairman Lake
00:48:24 Sen. Weinberg

Closing by Sponsor:

00:49:06 Sen. Dan Weinberg

00:51:25 Chairman Lake

DISCUSSION OF HANDOUTS CONCERNING HB 680

00:52:06 Russ Hyatt, Department of Revenue

[EXHIBIT\(tah64a05\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(tah64a06\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(tah64a07\)](#)

00:55:41 Chairman Lake

00:56:04 Rep. Lambert

00:57:26 Rep. Nooney

00:58:13 Rep. Sonju

HEARING ON SB 539

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:58:47 Sen. David Wanzenried (D), SD 49, opened the hearing on SB 539, Revise property tax appeal and create property tax protest reserve fund.

[EXHIBIT\(tah64a08\)](#)

Proponents' Testimony:

01:08:38 Peggy Beltrone, Cascade County Commissioner

01:12:33 Gene Walborn, Department of Revenue

01:27:15 Bob Vogel, representing Montana School Boards Association

01:29:01 Tom Bilodeau, representing MEA/MFT

01:31:47 Harold Blattie, Executive Director, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)

[EXHIBIT\(tah64a09\)](#)

01:37:09 John Prinkki, Carbon County Commissioner

Opponents' Testimony:

01:38:48 Ronda Wiggers, Montana County Treasurers Association

01:46:14 Mary Whittinghill, Montana Taxpayers Association

01:53:25 Webb Brown, representing Montana Chamber of Commerce

Informational Testimony: None

Discussion and Clarification:

01:54:01 Chairman Lake

01:54:22 Gene Walborn

01:57:04 Chairman Lake

01:57:22 Gene Walborn

01:57:39 Chairman Lake

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:57:51 Rep. Jopek
01:59:10 Rep. Erickson
02:00:01 Bob Vogel
02:01:36 Rep. Erickson
02:02:30 Bob Vogel
02:03:35 Rep. Erickson
02:04:20 Sen. Wanzenried
02:05:02 Gene Walborn
02:05:21 Rep. Butcher
02:05:56 Gene Walborn
02:07:24 Rep. Sonju
02:10:22 Gene Walborn
02:13:50 Rep. Ross
02:14:55 Harold Blattie
02:16:39 Rep. Ross
02:16:46 John Prinkki
02:17:05 Rep. Vincent
02:19:44 Rep. McAlpin
02:19:56 C. A Daw, Chief Legal Council, Department of Revenue
02:24:34 Rep. Cohenour
02:25:21 Harold Blattie
02:27:12 Rep. Cohenour
02:29:55 Rep. Lambert
02:30:52 Harold Blattie
02:31:56 Gene Walborn
02:32:38 Rep. Lambert
02:33:38 Harold Blattie
02:33:53 Rep. Butcher
02:39:10 Rep. Cohenour
02:41:12 Rep. Cohenour
02:41:22 Sen. Wanzenried
02:41:59 Rep. Lambert
02:42:58 Rep. MacLaren
02:43:34 Sen. Wanzenried

Closing by Sponsor:

02:43:57 Sen. David Wanzenried

02:49:20 Chairman Lake

ADDITIONAL EXHIBITS:

EXHIBIT (tah64a10)

Pertaining to SB 418

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 12:00 P.M.

REP. BOB LAKE, Chairman

DEBRA POLHEMUS, Secretary

BL/dp

Additional Exhibits:

EXHIBIT ([tah64aad.pdf](#))